

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday July 10. 1711.

SOME People are mightily pleas'd with my last *Review*, upon a very good natur'd Account, *as good Nature goes now a-days*: Now, *say they*, we shall catch him, for he is going to write against the *South-Sea Trade*, which will certainly Embroil him with the Government; and for this purpose, I question not but some Letters lately sent me, were intended to prompt me, and set me on, *a very honest Design*, no doubt, and therefore fill'd with Clamouring Objections against the Undertaking, against the Act of Parliament, for, *as they say*, Forcing all People who have Debts on the Navy, Victualling, Trans-

ports, &c. to come in, and put in their Stock into this Trade—— (as if the whole Debt were to be the Stock in Trade) and against the bringing in poor Seamen's Tickets, *and the like*—— I shall, in Time, according to *Solomon*, Answer these Men *to their Folly*, lest they be wise in their own Conceit.

But before I go upon this any farther, I must expose my self to answer another wise Body, who either in his Folly, or in his Malice, or rather in both, has sent me the following Letter; and I bring it in here, because I think the Case is something Parallel.

Mr.

Mr. Review,
YOU lately recommended a Book of Prophecies to the World, in which the Death of the Dauphin and the Emperor was foretold which accordingly came to pass—— You, or your Prophecies either, are not worth my Enquiry, as to whether they were your own or some-body's else; but I desire, since you are so good at telling us when Kings and Princes shall die, that you will tell us, if you know, when the present Queen shall die, or no, and Answer this Question at your Peril.

A Z. T X.

It is true, this Letter has in it a great deal of Folly, but it has something else in it also, to which there hangs a Story that is not yet told, nor shall be long hid—— And therefore I shall tell it you first, and then Answer my Letter-Writer, whose Person I guess at, and I shall Answer him in the Affirmative, as great as the Peril may be, and tell him positively when the Queen will shall die; but first let me give you the Occasion of the whole Story, as I take it.

Being in Conversation with some Gentlemen, (promiscuous as to Parties) I was ask'd my Opinion of the present Hopes and Success, as they think it, of our Jacobite or Oßober Party—— And what length I thought they would run; I told them, as I have often told you all, that I thought Jacobitism had been in its Meridian Altitude about a Fortnight before the Meeting of the last Parliament; That the Oßober-Club, as we call them, was not the Effect of the Success or Height and Prosperity of the Party, but of their being Chagrin, Malecontent, and Uacafie.

But, says an Honest High-Flying Gentleman, We have gotten the Mob of our Side, and you have thereby lost all your Hopes—— I answer'd, you will loose your Mob and your Cause together, as soon after one Thing you all hope for, comes to pass—— The Company eager to hear it, asks me when this should be, and what this one Thing was; to which I return'd, thus.

As long as her Majesty lives, whatever

length the High-Flyers may presume to run, they cannot, they dare not, the Nature of the Thing makes it Impracticable, that they should Act in Publick, as Parliaments, or Ministers of State, out of the Circle of the Constitution; if they should, they Ruin themselves; and therefore I'll speak it freely, That the Tory Party are the most oblig'd to my Lord High Treasurer, in the very Thing in which they think themselves disappointed, and for which they curse him, viz. In restraining them within the Limits of the Constitution, they have kept in to act by Rules for their own Interest, which they would fain have been breaking, to their own Destruction—— For would they but once break in upon the Constitution, they would soon destroy themselves, as all those who have Attempted it have done before them—— Now he that has kept them thus from their destroying themselves, has acted as a tender Nurse, that lets the Child Cry, Scratch and Tear for a Knife, but takes care to put it out of its reach, and rather let it Cry than Bleed; but of this hereafter.

Now going on with my Discourse—— I said, But as soon as God for our Sins shall remove the Queen, then the Jacobite Party presuming on the Strength they have gain'd, in the late Distractions, and the Crushing of the Whigs; then will they throw off the Vizor, and push for their Idol, the Pretender—— Glad of the News—— Says one eagerly, but When will the Queen die?—— At the Folly of which Question the Company laugh'd, and another to ask a wiser puts in, and What will be the Success? How should any Body know that, says a Third? Yes, says I, I'll tell you—— As soon as the People of Britain discovers the Cheat, and sees the Pretender coming in earnest, as once their Eyes open, they return to their Sight and their other Senses, and you lose the Mob at one Blow, they rise upon you as one Man, and turn all Whigs again; Whether it shall be too late for our Deliverance, or no, I shall not determine.

If this be Prophetick or not, let that alone till the Time comes ; but this I really my firm belief of the Thing, and I believe every thinking Person will allow the Probability of it.

Now from this Discourse, I have, as I believe, this will Letter sent, as Extravagant as the former Question, and very likely to be by the same Person.

The Question was, *When will the Queen die ?*

I'll tell you, Gentlemen, as directly as such a Question can be well answer'd.

1. When the Wickedness of this Nation is fill'd up, grown ripe for Judgment, and Heaven determines to write your Sin in Capitals, *that every one may read it in your Punishment*, then may her Majesty, with all your other abus'd Mercies, be expected to be remov'd from you.
2. When your Fury against God and one another, is broken out into Violence, and you are given up to the Destruction of Popery and French Tyranny, then according to God's Promise to the Righteous, *shall her Majesty be taken away from the Evil to come.*
3. *Her Majesty will die long before this Nation will be so Blind as to bring in a Popish Pretending Prince, to Govern and Protect a Protestant Nation.*
4. *Her Majesty will die, at least 3 Months before our Swearing, Oath-taking, Abjuring Clergy, who yet drink the*

Pretender's Health on their Knees, and own him in private to be their Loyal Prince, as Dr. Sacheverell has done, can clear themselves of being the Worst, most abhor'd Perjur'd Creatures in this Nation.

5. *Her Majesty will die, at least a Twelve Month before the Legal Restoring Episcopacy in Scotland ; it being known to be impossible, without the Breach of the Union, which her Majesty can never be prevail'd with to Inva'd or Encroach upon, while she lives ; what may be done after her, who knows ?*
6. *Her Majesty will certainly die, when Tories and Jacobites get their Will here, and the Constitution of Britain lies at the Mercy of that Party ; flag, whenever that Constitution comes to be Inva'd and Overthrown, the Queen cannot be permitted to Reign long.*

If there are any who do not like these Answers, I hope, nevertheless, they will admit them to be as wise as the Question ; That the Demise of the Queen is the Hopes of that Party, *whose Aim is to the Pretender*, is not only out of doubt, but is the kindest Thing can be said of them ; for otherwise we must suppose them to design her Destruction by Force ; since to wish the Queen her Life, Crown and Dignity, and at the same Time pray for the Pretender, is as Inconsistent and Impossible, as to be an Oath-taking Jacobite is impossible to consist with an Honest Man or with a Loyal Subject.

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